

Shared Leadership

SHARED LEADERSHIP IN ACTION IS PUBLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STUART FOUNDATION WINTER 2002

In Action

"The voices of parents are being heard alongside professionals to shape policy and practice to make a difference in the lives of children and families throughout California because of the vitally important collaborations between six forward-thinking California Child Welfare Services Departments, Parents Anonymous® Inc. and the Stuart Foundation."

Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin,
President and Chief Executive Officer of
Parents Anonymous® Inc.



"Our foundation believes that we can best protect children and support families through collaborative partnerships. This innovative project addresses the most fundamental and important collaboration - the partnership between parents and service providers to address the needs of children and families in the Child Welfare System. In such a short time, we have already seen significant results in Fresno and Ventura counties through this stellar Parent Leadership Initiative spearheaded by Parents Anonymous® Inc."



Bill Bettencourt, Program Officer, Stuart Foundation

Child Welfare System Kicks Off Major Parent Leadership Initiative

The Stuart Foundation, a renowned philanthropic organization, selected Parents Anonymous® Inc. to launch a groundbreaking project to strengthen the California Child Welfare System by promoting and implementing the principles of Parent Leadership as a critical element in successful system change. Through this innovative alliance that began in January 2002, Parents Anonymous® Inc. is providing customized Parent Leadership Training and Technical Assistance to Child Welfare System staff and parents within six key California counties. Parents Anonymous® Inc. has designed a unique Parent Leadership training program that is assisting Child Welfare System staff in building effective partnerships with parents in activities such as local planning processes, funding decisions, and evaluation to ensure quality programs for children and families.

During the first year of this exciting new initiative, Parents Anonymous® Inc. began working intensively with the Child Welfare System administrators,



Linda Henderson and Richard Shaw, Ventura County Human Services Agency Administrators talk with Cleopra Dyas (center), California Parent Leadership Team Member.

managers, staff and parents in Fresno and Ventura Counties. Over the next two years, Imperial, Kern, Sacramento, and Tehama Counties will join the project. All of these Child Welfare Departments have wholeheartedly volunteered to participate in this initiative to build stronger and more effective partnerships between agency staff and parents in order to protect children, strengthen services in their communities and create

major Child Welfare System reform.

This innovative Parent Leadership initiative is off to a great start. In collaboration with Child Welfare System staff, Parents Anonymous® Inc. is building a base of new information on successful Parent Leadership strategies, challenges, and benefits, creating a statewide model for system reform through Parent Leadership, and making an important contribution to the overall goal of strengthening the California Child Protection System. When Parent Leadership is successfully implemented, significant

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